Brandon Barton
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The World 100 Years from Now
(549 words)

One century ago, man could not even fly. Now, there are ships in space capable of traveling at velocities many times the speed of sound. What will 100 years bring for the future? Doom, I say. Doom to privacy, that is. Lo, you are about to embark upon an adventure into the bowels of paranoia and worst case scenario. May the very gods tremble!

Our rights as citizens of the so-called civilized societies will regress into a subtle "big brother" type scenario under the guise of progress. The right to personal privacy will be nonexistent, save the thoughts in your head (thought interception will not have been perfected at that time). Everyone will be monitored 24/7, all thanks to great strides in video surveillance technology that takes place over the next few decades. Due to right wing backing in the senate, any laws in place to prevent such a thing are overridden by acts not unlike the homeland security and patriot acts. (Such acts are commonly referred to by privacy advocates as "the bill of wrongs" or "the bill of rights defecation act.") The fact is, someone knows where you are at any given moment.

Every household appliance will have an End User License Agreement (EULA) of which the owner agrees to when the item in question is opened. Each device is registered to the owner upon acceptance of the EULA and stored in a nationwide database for the purpose of "theft prevention." However, its main purpose is for the collection of advertising statistics so that products can be more correctly marketed towards consumers.

The end result is the so-called “personalized advertising” and all derivatives of such just have “personalized” appended to the beginning of the medium. This advertising has reached a literal ubiquitous state (think Minority Report).

Nanotechnology, a relatively new field of science, has brought forth who some think is the pinnacle of robotics (although officially classified as a drug): nanomachines or “nanites” as they are commonly called. When nanites are injected into one's bloodstream, they are capable of such things as healing injuries, fighting disease, or even growing limbs, depending on the programming the nanites receive. The nanites both receive and transmit information wirelessly via the IEEE 802.11 wireless protocol and its various derivatives. The nanites receive instructions, but it is what they *transmit* that is much more alarming. The tiny machines report everything about their hosts, from average heart beats per minute to the amount of irregular bowel movements of the host to the host's sexual performance. Although the use of nanites is strictly voluntary, benefits are given to those that do utilize nanites; benefits such as lower health insurance rates and the generous nanomachine tax deduction. Thus, the public is given the illusion of free choice.

Not all is bad, though. Everyone is still entitled to their right to life and their right to pursue happiness within certain bounds, and for some that is enough. Although there are those who still try to fight for the constitutional rights once thought to be set in stone, their pleas fall on deaf ears. The fight for liberty was a battle fought a long time ago; liberty lost.